

German Spa The German Tribune

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Mark Twain, Bismarck, the Tsar of Russia, Ibn Saud, General Eisenhower, Charles de Gaulle, Ted Miller from Kansas City, Frederic the Great and the Hunchback - what do they all have in common? They and many others visited the spas and health resorts of Germany. From the year dot onwards through the present and especially in the

future, Germany is the country of thermal baths, springs, healthy climates, world famous spas. From the seaside to the forests of Southern Germany there are more than 300 of them. They are traditional and modern at the same time. Take Wildbad in the Black Forest with its ultra-modern thermal baths or Wiesbaden with

the Royal Pump Room, or Baden with the elegant casino, but we mustn't forget Bad Homburg and the Imperial City Aachen which has the warmest springs in Central Europe. Brochures on Germany the Country and its many natural treatments are available.

Baden, 19 July 1981
Year - No. 997 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Home and abroad, it's time to take stock

This summer promises to be a tough one both at home and abroad for Germany. At Federal, state and local government level the cupboard is bare, and but fools would deny. And foreign affairs are characterised by dangerous uncertainties.

We have yet to come to terms with the new men in the White House and Elysee Palace, conservative Ronald Reagan and socialist Francois Mitterrand, who jumped home by a surprisingly wide margin.

The two new presidents have set themselves ambitious domestic policy targets, so both have yet to find their feet on foreign policy.

They are both taking their time, more than can be to Bonn's liking. Bonn may appreciate the situation but the uncertainty is not proving conducive to holiday spirit on the Rhine.

The crisis in Poland and the smouldering fires in the Near and Middle East have made the summer recess less fun than usual too.

So it was all the more gratifying that Mitterrand brought forward the Occidental-Franco-German summit to a week before the Western economic summit in Paris.

He and his German hosts settled down to a thorough exchange of views. There were many questions to answer in connection with the Common Market: In connection with EEC budgetary policies and the irksome issue of Common Agricultural Policy reform.

These were topics towards which the Bonn summit was unable to contribute much of a solution. They were not to be dealt with in detail until the London EEC summit in November.

The Chancellor and his Ministers listened attentively as M. Mitterrand explained how he intended financing the 35-hour working week and whether he proposed to suggest the idea to other members of the EEC. Herr Schmidt had no intention of spoiling the feeling France has of getting off to a fresh start, but he had already noted, with an undertone of doubt, that "if all costs money." Bonn cannot be unconcerned by the economic and social policies pursued by Paris, its partner in the 1963 friendship pact; France is Germany's foremost trading partner. The personal intimacy of ties between the French and German leaders

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security policy. M. Mitterrand has uncompromisingly come out in favour of missile modernisation by the West.

The situation as he reads it is that the balance of power in Europe is deeply disturbed by Russia's SS-20 missiles and Backfire bombers.

He has been equally forthright in his declaration of intent to perfect France's deterrent potential and to counteract any tendency towards neutralism, peace depending on a balance of power.

President Mitterrand, Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher agree on this point. France and Germany are felt in Bonn to largely agree in their assessment of the East-West situation.

But unresolved issues do arise in connection with, for instance, the Helsinki review conference in Madrid. Bonn was keen to learn how Paris saw the future of this long drawn-out conference.

Queries also arose in connection with the Vienna MBFR talks on troop cuts in Central Europe. President Giscard d'Estaing had decided misgivings about them because he felt their geographical limitation was wrong.

The real problems arise, however, within the Common Market: In connection with EEC budgetary policies and the irksome issue of Common Agricultural Policy reform.

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Mitterrand and Schmidt in Bonn...thorough exchange of views.

(Photo: Puly-Press)

Genscher gets along just fine in Bulgaria

Foreign Ministers Hans-Dietrich Genscher of Germany and Petar Mladenoff of Bulgaria were both satisfied with the outcome of their three days of talks at a Black Sea holiday resort near Varna.

The two countries differed in principle on a number of political issues, such as missile modernisation in Europe and the future of East-West ties, heightened in their uncertainty by the Polish crisis.

But the two governments aimed to cooperate more closely and to attach fresh and greater importance to mutual ties, as Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov had noted in Sofia.

Specific agreement was reached on the two Foreign Ministers holding more frequent informal meetings, on consulta-

tions between their disarmament negotiators and a meeting soon in Bonn between the political directors of the two Foreign Ministries.

Trade ties too are to be boosted; Germany is Bulgaria's major trading partner in the West. Herr Genscher hopes progress will be made soon on an investment protection agreement.

It was, as Mr Zhivkov put it, a rapprochement between what was possibly the third most important country in the world and a small Soviet satellite.

Both Communists and non-Communists in Bulgaria retain feelings of traditional friendship with Germany, while the Bulgarian leader proved a particularly attentive host.

He was well briefed on domestic affairs in Bonn and cracked jokes about Herr Genscher's key role in the interplay of forces between the coalition and the Opposition.

On the evening of the first day of Herr Genscher's visit it looked for a while as though the cordial atmosphere would be clouded by his plain speaking on Soviet overarming with 'medium-range missiles and on Moscow's missile monstrosity proposals.

A number of Bulgarian officials, accustomed to toeing the Moscow line, showed unmistakable signs of being upset. But this did not seem to be the case with the Bulgarian leaders.

Even after his after-dinner speech Herr Genscher found Foreign Minister Mladenoff and Party leader Zhivkov (who is held in particularly high esteem in the Kremlin) to be both confiding and even easy-going.

"No-one," Mr Zhivkov emphatically said, "can deny the existence of historical friendship between Germany and Bulgaria."

Berni Conrad

(Din, Welt, 11 June 1981)

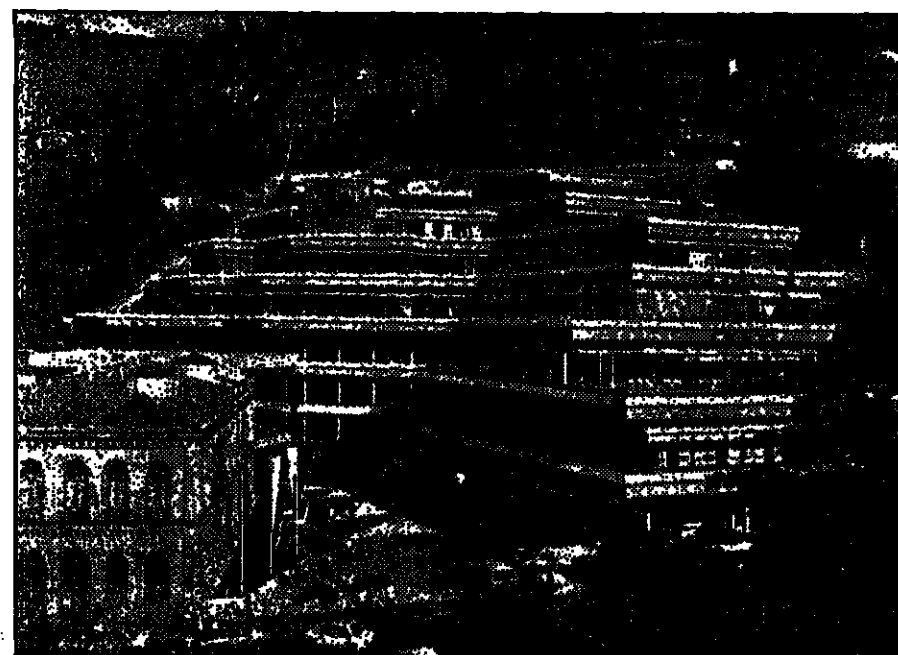


Genscher and Bulgaria's Zhivkov in Sofia...an easy-going tête à tête. (Photo: dpa)



Wiesbaden

Wildbad



DZT W DEUTSCHE ZEPHUR TOURISMUS
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt

هذا من الأصل

Jürgen Dieblöcker
(Rheinische Post, 9 July 1951)

■ THE ECONOMY

Putting 'the crisis' in perspective



Almost every day, West Germans are called upon to tighten their belts to help master the economic crisis.

But is it a real economic crisis? Certainly, we are not living in an economic paradise. Inflation is eroding more of wage-earners' pay than the increase in the wage rounds can compensate for.

For the first time since the war, West German wage-earners have had to accept a reduction in their real income.

Politicians say that it is a sacrifice to compensate for the huge increases in energy prices which have raised the inflationary tide.

Should we look instead at the unemployment rate, which has risen to 4.8 per cent in the past two months?

The number of people out of work in May was higher than at any time since 1954. However, we should not be too shocked by these figures. The number of people employed rose in 1980 as more young men were integrated into the working process.

In 1981 many new jobs will have to be provided for school leavers of the baby boom years. But soon this supply will fall off and employers will be keenly competing for workers.

Home production is rising — unlike in other European countries. The cause is an unexpected upswing in exports, due largely to the depreciation of the Deutschmark which the Bundesbank tried for too long to prevent.

Exports could, as they always have been since the war, be the locomotive of an economic upswing on a broad front. The first half of 1981 was generally agreed to be poor but nonetheless there was an increase in gross national product of at least half a percentage point.

Despite all the talk of crisis, industry is still investing heavily and boosting productivity. This means that in companies and in the economy as a whole two to three per cent more productivity

has been achieved by the same work force.

This effect is necessary even if in the short term it doesn't lower unemployment. It ensures that we remain internationally competitive.

Fortunately, Germany does not have an economic crisis comparable with that in Great Britain and many other countries. The fact that the state is having to spend more with its revenue reduced by the fairly gentle slump is not in itself enough to justify talk of a real crisis.

National and local politicians from the Bonn Minister of Finance to the local council treasurer are, however, keen to foster this melodramatic view because the state is going through a crisis for which politicians must bear the responsibility.

No one can claim that the economy is faring worse than was forecast in 1980. It is not the state of the economy that has brought the state's budgets into this sorry state.

Deficits and false structures are the consequence of hand-out policies and the baleful tendency to take the path of least resistance.

In the days of plenty, politicians failed to distinguish between investments which improved performance and those which entailed further expenditure.

A road, for example, can considerably increase a region's efficiency and thus rapidly recoup costs. On the other hand a swimming pool, desirable though it may be in many respects, involves high initial expenditure and, when built, high maintenance and employment costs.

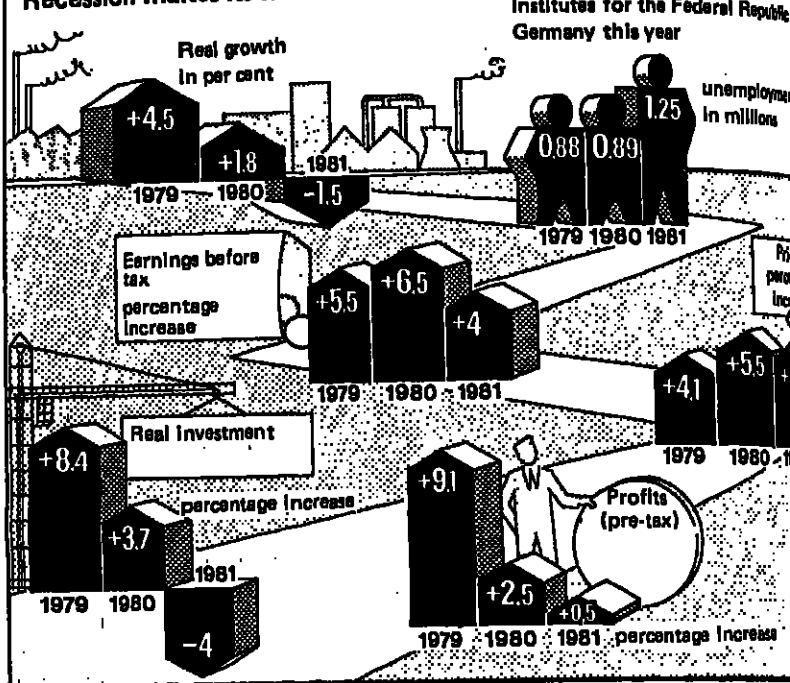
Here, excessive expectations and false decisions by the authorities who were not subject to the competitive mechanisms of the market have led to abuses.

The need to fill the gaps in the state's budget is no reason to keep telling the citizen day in and day out that he is living beyond his means and has caused an economic crisis.

Our economy is healthier than expected — it is our politics and financial behaviour that are ailing. Dieter Ferber

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 6 July 1981)

Recession makes its mark



As forecast by leading economic institutes for the Federal Republic of Germany this year

Five Wise Men produce a mid-term report

The Council of Economic Experts have for the first time in three years produced a special report in the middle of the year.

This indicates that the Five Wise Men are concerned about the state of the economy.

At first sight, this seems surprising. The economy is not in a worse state than expected. It is, if anything, doing slightly better.

The council confirmed the economic data on which the Bonn government based its predictions for 1981 in January: a slight drop in gross national product, unemployment to reach 1.2 million, a high balance of payments deficit.

Gloomy, but hardly surprising.

Why then this special report which indicates dramatic developments? The answer is simple: the experts are worried that the German economy is falling on all fronts to respond to the challenges with the necessary thoroughness.

Most of them are worried that the Bonn government, the Länder and the local authorities will not take the con-

solidation of their budgets as seriously as they ought to in the coming year.

They argue that quite apart from difficulties the economic slump caused in the public spending there is a structural deficit in the spending budget.

State expenditure exceeds normal (including normal state and business) alarmingly.

This indebtedness will have to be gradually reduced if the state is to avoid the necessary scope for new initiatives.

The council also severely criticised both sides of industry. Their view was that the year failed to live up to the account of the changed economic situation is certainly correct. These comments did not improve the confidence of German industry.

The most surprising item in the report is the criticism of the Bundesbank for failing to foster growth by interest policies; but for reducing tough policies in recent months.

It says the Bundesbank ought, if necessary, to have increased its interest rates to prevent the Deutschmark from losing value against the dollar.

It is clear that this criticism cannot be answered. First, because the rate of interest has hit several industries very hard; and second, because the appreciable decline of the Deutschmark has helped exports.

On the other hand the experts' comment that high devaluation led to inflation cannot be dismissed.

There is a danger that the German economy may lose the strength it has been its main strength over the last two decades: inner stability.

Of course there is no patent for getting out of the economic difficulties at the moment.

The experts' say that stability and confidence, that we should improve competitiveness by rationalisation, that a slow rise in costs makes sense. It has proved correct in the past.

Which is more, than can be said of those theories which say that inflation is a necessary evil. Thomas Löffler

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 July 1981)

SEX

Sex appeal 'no guarantee' of advertising success

University consumer research scientists say sex appeal in advertising can backfire and should be used with care.

They may be attracted by cheesecake, but they will not necessarily buy the product, especially women over 40, who at all kinds of pinups as an advertising campaign.

Cheesecake is almost universal in advertising, as a glance at the glossy pages of a pinup girl lie on the bonnet of a car. A champagne is seen bubbling in the background of eye-catching

giggling girls behind is displayed as the day she was born to add a new brand of toilet paper.

An instance of sex appeal sales-

Sharing cars,

saving fuel

over is to launch next year a scheme to coordinate car pooling, through which motorists are transported.

An experimental project in an urban centre and car pool agency is set up by the local authorities to encourage commuters to save energy.

First task will be to brief the public about the services. It intends to produce a booklet which will contain a coupon to be filled in and returned by those interested in car pooling.

They will be asked to detail the route which they drive to and from work, the times at which they do so and the coupon to the pool HQ. The information will be sorted out by a computer that will, it is hoped, come up with the names and addresses of others with whom they could car pool and from work.

Continued on page 12

University research scientists have used closed-circuit TV to show that impulse shoppers have more expressive facial expressions.

They are impulse shoppers at one another, coming home with purchases we had no original intention of making, and between 35 and 50 per cent of purchases are said to be unplanned.

Professor Peter Weinberg and his colleagues at Paderborn claim to have proved that an observer can tell whether a buyer is buying deliberately or on impulse.

These others had no idea who had actually bought a sticker and who had not, but closer scrutiny of the footage showed that buyers and non-buyers differed markedly in their features.

There was no mistaking the facial expressions of people who were making up their minds to buy on the spur of the moment; they showed signs of excitement.

The buyers questioned fully confirmed the conclusions reached. In their interviews they readily admitted to having

choice was then theirs. Would they have then been used for the purposes and answer a few

questions? If not, the film would not be used.

Nearly all agreed to allow the footage to be used. It thus pinpointed 47 buyers and 154 non-buyers.

The research team then selected 15 buyer and non-buyer sequences and edited them into a film that was shown to others.

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A giveaway on the buyer's face

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The older the women questioned, the more widespread this feeling was. So sex appeal must be used with care in selling products aimed at women over 40.

And even with men, to whom sex appeals more strongly, a successful advertising campaign does not necessarily mean higher sales.

At times, the Saarbrücken researchers found, men concentrated exclusively on the erotic motif and paid no attention whatever to the product.

The name of the product is only borne in mind better (up to 50 per cent better) when there is a meaningful connection between the sex appeal and the message to be put across.

This was felt to be the case with a girly advertisement for car tyres that billed the tyres as "the legs of your car." "Handling sex in advertising calls for sociological expertise," the Saarbrücken pundits said. "A wide range of considerations need bearing in mind if sex appeal advertising is to be successful."

The target group, the product, the dosage and the kind of sexual stimulus used all number among the factors to be taken into account.

Or so the Saarbrücken consumer research scientists say, and theirs is the largest research facility of its kind in Europe.

Udo Lorenz

(Nürnberg Nachrichten, 27 June 1981)

Videotext information service extends its programme

There are well over 100,000 videotext subscribers in the Federal Republic of Germany, each with an adapter to their colour TV set.

The videotext service is available on Channels 1 and 2 and some of the regional third programmes and has been in operation since June 1980.

It is provided from 16 hours to the end of normal transmissions, and the head office for both major channels is in West Berlin.

Channel 1 (ARD) and Channel 2 (ZDF) are to run special stands at this year's Berlin radio show from 4 to 13 September.

The range of videotext services has been steadily extended and improved, including much more than radio and TV pro-



She doesn't appeal to everybody. (Photo: Duseholux)

gramme hints, weather forecasts and road traffic reports.

There are news summaries from five leading daily newspapers, up-to-the-minute news headlines and subtitles to programmes actually broadcast on TV in the normal way.

Videotext subtitles are now supplied for all major soccer matches screened on either channel, which is a great help for the country's half a million hard of hearing.

On 11 September the third country-wide meeting of videotext producers will be held in Berlin, with a platform debate on the success so far of the scheme as launched by Deutsche Bundespost.

The postal authorities will be unveiling the new international standard on which Europe recently agreed: it is to be introduced in Germany in 1983.

The new standard provides in particular for better graphic design opportunities. Individual communication facilities will also be provided, enabling subscribers to communicate with each other.

Since June last year videotext trials have been held in Berlin and in the Düsseldorf-Neuss region. Videotext can be hooked up with TV sets, telephones and suitably equipped computers.

Up to 3,000 subscribers in each region can dial for up to 100,000 pages of extra textual information covering all walks of life.

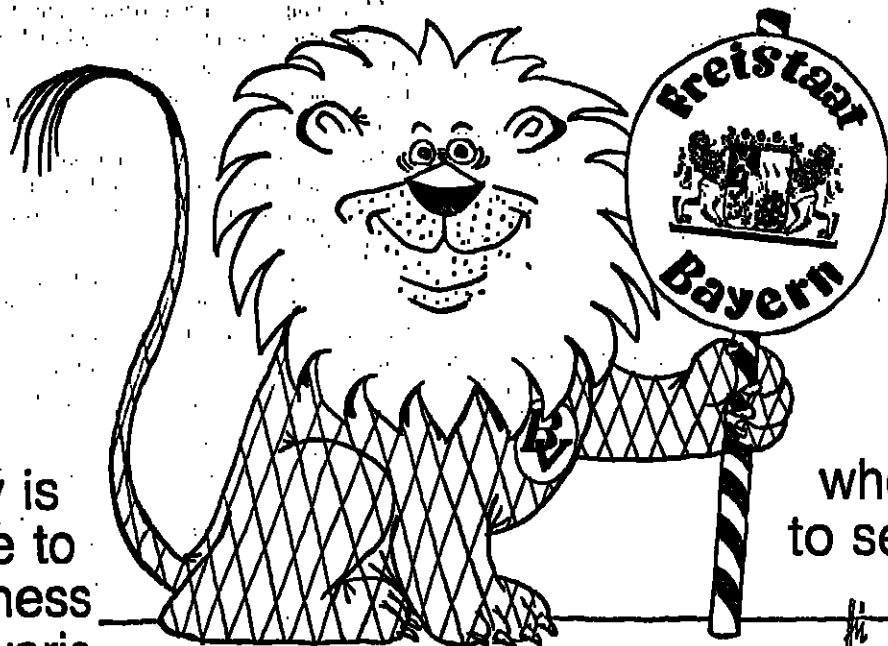
Up to 1,000 calls a day are made to the regional operation headquarters in Düsseldorf and Berlin.

Information is supplied by more than 500 producers, including retailers, banks, newspapers, travel agents, encyclopaedia publishers and institutions such as the Consumer Research Foundation and the Bundestag.

Renate I. Mieschke

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 4 July 1981)

The BV Lion invites you to West Germany and the friendly Freistaat



West Germany is a good place to invest and do business in but Bavaria

is attractive in its own special way.

Our borders are open for whatever assets our international business partners have to offer - whether money, technology, innovation, research or just plain good ideas!

We at Bayerische Vereinsbank, one of Germany's major banks, have experience in entering new markets and our international network, linking such key financial centres as London, New York, Luxembourg, Zurich, Paris, Tokyo, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, is there to help you gain that first and all-important foothold. With a tradition dating back to 1780 we are a proven partner and familiar with all types of financial transactions from retail and

wholesale banking to securities business.

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speciality, mortgage banking, where our long-term bond issues provide added flexibility in investment financing.

If you want to know more about the German market and the Bavarian business scene in particular why not contact the BV Lion?

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THE ENVIRONMENT

A clue in the dust: another Ice Age may be blowing with the wind

University marine geologists have found Sahara dust retrieved from the bed of the Atlantic to indicate we may be in for another Ice Age. Today's winds are much the same as were 20,000 years ago, at the time of the last Ice Age, and a far cry from 8,000 years ago when the earth's climate was particularly temperate.

The telltale dust, scooped from the bed of the Atlantic by the research vessel Meteor, gave the lie to wind directions over several million years.

Large and the prevailing winds have been north-south during ice ages and east-west during warmer periods. Two entirely different wind systems carry dust from the Sahara to the eastern Atlantic, the east-west harmattan and north-south trade winds.

The former carries dust from the western Sahara and the Sahel zone where the surface of the earth consists of ferrous soil containing red grains of quartz and kaolin, which is rich in mica.

The dust carried by the trade winds consists of colourless quartz grains and other kinds of mica, such as illite and montmorillonite. It comes from the western Sahel zone of Africa.

By means of these differences marine geologists led by Professor Michael Sammler have succeeded in identifying the prevailing winds at any given time.

The size of grains found on the seabed is an important pointer to wind force and speed.



According to the findings of the Kiel research project, which is backed financially by the Scientific Research Association, the two winds have blown for more than 20 million years, since the middle of the tertiary period at least.

They have varied in intensity, however. The harmattan has prevailed mainly in the warmer periods, including most of the tertiary and in between the Ice Ages, which are currently felt to have begun about four or five million years ago in the northern hemisphere.

In colder periods the trade winds have prevailed.

The size of grains of desert dust on the bed of the Atlantic reveals, for instance, that the trade winds at the height of the last Ice Age, about 20,000 years ago, blew at speeds of 20 metres per second or so.

The harmattan, on the other hand, reached speeds of only five to 12 metres per second.

About 8,000 years ago, when the last Ice Age came to an end and the warmer period was at its peak, the speed of the trade winds was a third slower, whereas that of the harmattan was nearly half as much again.

The climate belt of the tropics and

subtropics with their typical winds is thus not only very old; it also seems not to have undergone much change in the Ice Ages.

The development of Ice Age wind patterns in the northern hemisphere is a result of the extension of polar ice caps thus 'took' place without pushing the entire atmospheric mantle further south.

The oldest signs of a prevalently meridional wind circulation, or north-south trade winds, are well over 20 million years old and thus much older than any known traces of the first Ice Age in the northern hemisphere.

They are presumably a sign that the atmosphere was first adjusting to a colder period that did not lead until much later to Ice Age conditions.

This onset of Ice Age wind patterns occurred several times in the temperate climate of the tertiary period and in the colder periods of the Ice Age proper.

The most striking point, however, is that air circulation in this sector indicates more powerful trade winds and a less powerful harmattan again.

The distribution of desert dust on the seabed off the coast of North Africa is along lines similar to about 20,000 years ago when Scandinavian glaciers extended as far as Berlin and Alpine glaciers nearly as far as Munich.

This markedly meridional air circulation has been observed by meteorologists over Europe, as Bonn University geogra-

pher Dieter Klaus told the Alfred Wegener Symposium in West Berlin.

Since 1940 air movements over Europe have tended to become more meridional, or longitudinal, in direction, leading to changes in weather patterns, he said.

The intermediate zone for weather fronts has moved from the Mediterranean to Central Europe and northern Germany, thereby increasing the number of troughs north of the Alps.

It would be overdratamising the situation to infer that a fresh Ice Age was just around the corner (apart from the undeniable fact that the earth is currently going through a colder spell).

We know from geological reconstructions of ages past that such colder periods can descend very fast.

Long-term assumptions based on radiation changes

But there are scientific grounds for assuming that a fresh Ice Age is unlikely for several thousand years. These long-term assumptions are based, for instance, on changes in solar radiation.

Besides, the meteorological history of the Ice Age in the general sense of the term has been full of climate changes that have by no means always led to extremely cold spells.

All that can be said with any certainty is that wind patterns over Europe and North Africa have grown longitudinal and will probably remain predominantly so for some time to come.

This phenomenon was characteristic of the Ice Ages.

Harald Stelner

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 June 1981)

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

Solving the problem of the flour bombs

small, point-shaped sources with a high energy density; their pressure waves expand in a calculable fashion.

Non-ideal dust explosions start from low-energy ignition sources and do not spread until an ignitable dust-air mixture has been brought about by the pressure wave blowing dust up and mixing it with air.

A dust explosion of this kind does not gather momentum at any great speed. Explosions in mills and silos can last for several seconds or even minutes.

Any strategy to prevent mill explosions must be based on these explosive properties, and large-scale trials are under way at a mill in Westerland, East Frisia.

The trials are being undertaken by the North German Technical Supervision Association (TUV), with head offices in Hamburg.

The TUV is best known for its two-year roadworthiness tests of motor vehicles but also carries out safety tests on industrial equipment and household devices.

An experimental flour-conveyer system is under construction at a cost of DM7m alongside the mill.

Flour is carried by elevators and conveyor belts between two silos; and light-

tion possibilities and risks are tested by artificially-induced explosions.

These explosions are then probed and the latest preventive, safety and combat measures tried out to see how they work in practice.

The installation will be able to work at a capacity of up to 50 tonnes an hour. In principle far-reaching preventive measures to stop explosions have already been developed, especially in the chemical industry.

But mills have not made much use of them. They are usually small or family firms and need prompting to introduce new technology. Besides, new technology is not usually tailor-made for them.

Millers say, for instance, that non-explosive gases such as nitrogen or carbon dioxide cannot be used in flour storage or conveyance because flour contains enzymes that rely on oxygen intake.

Other moves, such as preventing the spread of what are often small primary explosions, are making only slow headway.

A pressure detector is incorporated in dangerous sectors of the mill or silo. When pressure increases an extinguisher prevents further spread of the explosion.

Primary protection from explosions, in other words, the prevention of mixtures

that might tend to explode, is a virtual non-starter in the milling business.

Flour is naturally an explosive medium. In manufacture and conveyance it invariably escapes somewhere or other to form an explosive mixture with the air.

It is virtually impossible to rule out sources of ignition too.

So prevention measures will need to concentrate on means of preventing or limiting the resulting damage.

TUV research engineers feel one option would be to build pressure- or shock-resistant silos and conveyer installations, but this calls for substantial reinforcement and higher investment costs.

Reinforced concrete sections are normally built only to withstand pressure of up to 0.3 bars. Were they to be shock-resistant they would have to withstand up to 3 bars. That would call for walls so thick as to be virtually out of the question.

Steel silos might be less expensive but millers say they too are out of the question because of the risk of silo walls sweating.

Similar difficulties arise in connection with pressure- or shock-resistant manufacture of other parts. So many other experiments are due to be tried out at Westerland.

They include easing pressure by incorporating outlets through which pressure waves can be released before they have time to do damage.

The concrete tops of conventional silos could also be designed to incorporate pressure relief docks.

Harald Stelner

(Die Welt, 27 June 1981)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Doctors look back at how their profession helped Nazi liquidation programme

Hitler's liquidation programme and the role of doctors in the process was discussed at a conference at Hanover University.

Under the programme, hundreds of thousands of sick and handicapped people were forcibly sterilised, killed in medical experiments and exterminated in gas chambers.

Relatives were told that the victim had died suddenly. It was not uncommon for appendicitis to be given as the cause, whether or not the appendix had already been removed.

But this soon became known and resistance developed. One outspoken opponent was Cardinal Galen, of Münster. In 1941 Hitler ordered that the programme be halted.

Delegates to the conference, on "Psychiatry and German Fascism," held at the university's school of medicine, heard several answers to the question of how doctors became involved in the programme.

Two facile explanations were dismissed right at the start: that only a few black sheep in the medical profession took part and that these who did acted under compulsion.

The experts agreed that there had been signs of anti-human currents in medical science well before 1933. The "Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring" Act of 1933 could never have come into force in July 1933 if it had not been prepared for years previously.

Some psychiatrists at the time were clearly delighted that the state overrode legal objections to forcing doctors to report handicapped patients to the authorities and that it forced people to be sterilised.

In 1939 a decree from Hitler was published making it possible for the incurably sick to be granted the possibility of euthanasia.

This decree had been preceded by discussions in which some leading doctors called for even more drastic measures.

Some of these doctors and professors were able to continue their medical and teaching practice after the war.

Cologne professor of genetics Benno Müller-Hill said that any claim by genetic science to fully understand how intelligence and other mental faculties were inherited was humbug.

Continued from page 7

The computer will also print-out for each participant details of suitable public transport services.

Commuters will thus be able to see for themselves whether it is worth their while to carry on driving alone to work or they might do better to pool with others or to use public transport.

Bonn Transport Minister Volker Hauff hopes this Hanover scheme will improve use of existing local transport capacity. In commuter traffic the average car contains 1.1 people, so there is clearly room for improvement.

If only people were to set aside their misgivings about car pools, he feels, any amount of energy could be saved. Traffic noise and exhaust fumes could be cut and the number of people killed and injured on the roads substantially reduced.

Hans-J. Malinke

(Die Welt, 3 July 1981)



But in those days this humbug was the dominant orthodoxy, proclaimed by renowned scientists such as Professor Karl Schneider of Heidelberg, who was generally considered to be an idealistic doctor.

In the Third Reich, Schneider and others like him were given ample opportunity to look for proof of the allegedly incontrovertible genetic facts. Schneider, for example, treated patients and then had them killed so that he could compare clinical and pathological diagnoses.

Hamburg professor Julius Hallervorden ordered 500 human brains for his laboratory and he got them.

Robert Ritter, who claimed to be an expert on the genes of gypsies, even argued that "pure gypsies" were less dangerous for the future of the German race than those people who had a gypsy as a grandparent or great-grandparent.

This man, whose apparently expert diagnosis led many colleagues and nurses to sterilise "one-eighth" gypsies to prevent the birth of "one-sixteenth" gypsies, got off scot free after the war.

Josef Mengele, who received a doctorate of anthropology from Munich and of medicine from Frankfurt University, conducted brutal experiments on twins at Auschwitz on his own initiative, not on orders from anywhere in the Nazi hierarchy.

Heinrich Himmler merely gave his approval to Mengele's application. The project was backed by the German Research Association.

Müller-Hill said that doctors had never been as highly respected as they were in the Nazi state.

Charles Darwin's teaching that nature destroyed the weak and favoured the strong was perverted into a mission to murder the weak. The decision on who was to die was always the doctors'. They directed the extermination programme.

There were occasional complaints that non-doctors were interfering in medical decisions — at which Hitler assured doctors that the responsibility lay solely with them. They were the officers of a

movement that pursued the illusion of total health.

Hanover psychiatrist Hans Stoffels said that these doctors regarded their mission as that of abolishing all suffering, so that only the general good remained.

The victims of sterilisation and murder were the means towards this insane utopia. The will to cure walked over mountains of dead.

The social scientists at the conference analysed the motives behind this wish to produce a pure, healthy, strong and happy master race by selection: the need to feel strong after losing the First World War, the educated and wealthy middle class's fear of the rising lower classes, the call for the use of terror to stabilise crumbling power structures.

Also there was the wish to break out of the frontiers of the German state imposed at the Versailles conference and to establish a great empire. Only a master race could claim the right to impose its will on others.

But did the medical mass murderers have no sense that what they were doing was wrong? Did the hushing of the euthanasia programme only serve the elitist interests of the "priests of the cult of extermination" as Müller-Hill described them?

State institutions called themselves, for example, Charitable Foundations for Institutional Care.

These and similar grotesque and grimly ironic euphemisms prove that they regarded mass murder not just as unpopular but as immoral.

The directors of Schloss Hartheim extermination camp in Linz — where inmates from Mauthausen no longer capable of working were brought to be murdered — told staff that the murder of the handicapped was a great achievement of civilisation and, even held occasional flute concerts to boost their morale.

Yet at the same time those involved in the killings were given extra rations of alcohol — which was, obviously, necessary to help them overcome their repugnance.

This repugnance often led to resistance, which took different forms in various institutions. The predominantly young audience at the Hanover confer-

ence was particularly interested in this aspect.

Doctors, nurses and orderlies all played a part in resistance. There is evidence that the murder apparatus did not function quite as smoothly as was wished.

After 1945, Professor Werner Heyde, director of the euthanasia programme, was given a good job in Schleswig-Holstein — under a false name, admittedly, but with the connivance of many in places.

The Federal Supreme Court appointed a doctor who had selected more than 6,000 patients for death.

What preoccupied conference delegates more than anger at the failure of German justice to punish the crime was: how far such inhuman medicine continues to be practised in psychiatry.

Many scruples were expressed in general discussion. Professor Klaus Gerner of Göttersloh, Psychiatry, said that psychiatrists were still required to make selections.

What scientific criteria did they use when making decisions to limit the personal freedom of patients?

How close is the psychiatrist's relation with the state institutions responsible for law and order?

What are the main priorities in policy and in the psychiatrist's mind to help mentally ill and suffering people to keep them under control, prevent them causing a disturbance?

Of course it is convenient for us to shove psychiatric patients into 1,000-bed hospitals — so to speak — for final storage. And it is also convenient to tranquillise them by pumping them constantly with drugs, regardless of the side-effects.

However, it would be more humane — and this point of view was expressed — to allow patients to live in a normal environment.

Professor Wolfgang Jansen of Jena said: "We have got to stop using terms such as 'endogenic', 'resistance to therapy' and 'inability to learn' when talking about patients. These terms only justify social exclusion and violence."

The Association of Special School Teachers in Brunswick declared that every human being was capable of learning. Jansen described this a revolutionary break with the past. At one time special school teachers thought it their duty to march their pupils off to be sterilised.

Concern at the conference for the fate of the sick at the conference went hand in hand with concern for the not-so-sick, concern about the humanity of a society which institutionalises its "problem people" and is only too glad to pay a price.

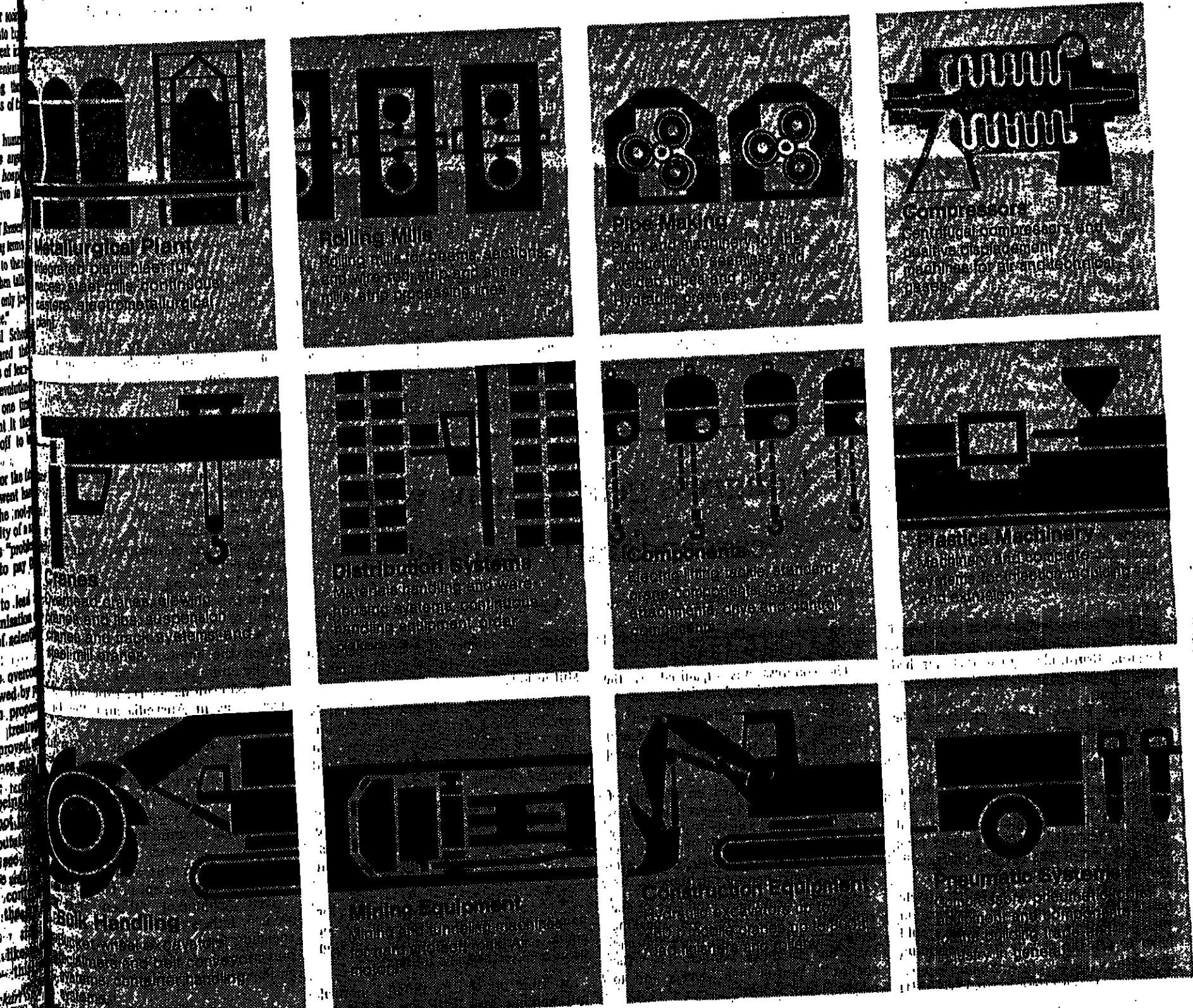
This discussion is bound to lead to the conclusion that the humanitarian society is not just a matter of scientific information.

Many obstacles have to be overcome before such insights are followed by political action. Realistic reform proposals for locally-based forms of psychiatry have long existed and have proved successful in experimental schemes — that in Hanover, for example, have been reduced because the money is not there.

It only remains to point out that Bonn government could not be expected to supporting this conference and Year of the Disabled, which is long overdue 36 years after the Nazi barbarism. Delegates said they would discuss the conference held again in a psychiatric hospital.

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■ OUR WORLD

Helping hand for those with plenty of time

An organisation in the Saar is attempting to help women whose children have grown up and left home to fill in their time.

The project began because of the number of women finding it difficult to occupy themselves.

In many cases, crises developed. The idea is that their energies instincts should be channelled into various forms of unpaid social work.

The project is financed by the Saar Protestant Academy and the Bonn Ministry of Youth, Family and Health. And it is being monitored and assessed by the Saarbrücken Institute of Social Research and Social Economics.

The project organisers concentrated on three areas of Saarbrücken which are typical of the demographic structure of West Germany as a whole.

The Burbach district of Saarbrücken is dominated by the steelworks and related industries. The population is working class and pollution is high. Social problems are serious — caused largely by the crisis in the steel industry.

In the Ottistrasse area, the so-called steelworks ghetto, there is a relatively high degree of social stability. The social structure is traditional: wives look after the home and the children and the husbands, usually shift-workers, earn the bread.

The proportion of women working is accordingly below the national average.

"My husband would never allow me to clear away other people's dirt," said one Burbach woman. Relations between neighbours are good and maintained over generations. Burbach people find contact with outsiders difficult. The fate of the steelworks is the main subject of conversation.

The situation on the recently-built Eschberg estate in Saarbrücken is different. Here, relations between the people on the estate have yet to be established.

The educational level of these estate-dwellers is significantly higher than in Burbach, where 92 per cent have the elementary school leaving certificate. 57 per cent of Eschberg people live in high-rise flats and fewer than a third in houses.

It is generally agreed that opportunities for people in Eschberg to get to know one another are poor; 42 per cent said that they had no contact with any others living there; 41 per cent had friends but many of these friendships had existed before they moved.

Fifty five per cent said that their only contact with their neighbours was saying "hallo."

Only 45 per cent of housewives said that they were happy on the estate — and these were women who drove into town regularly.

Cases of depression and isolation among adults there are on the increase. Eschberg at one time had the highest suicide and attempted suicide rates in the entire Saarbrücken district.

Social and contact possibilities on this estate were the poorest out of 18 comparable estates in West Germany. Many women broke out of their isolation through the Protestant church organisation, to which they went because they themselves needed help. Many of these



In the best of form

Muskel-Mädchen line up for the judges in the German women's bodybuilding championship. This activity for women has its roots in, of course, America.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

women took part in adult education classes.

The situation in Dillingen was similar. Here, too, women were far more isolated than men. They wanted to develop, learn and establish contacts. Dillingen, a small industrial town, consists of older working class areas and newer estates.

The main aim of the project is not only to involve women in the project groups but to encourage them to do some form of social work and train them to do so.

The housewives are given the opportunity to work as group leaders in the Protestant Academy.

Women in Dillingen are establishing a pupils' group, training as group leaders and now want to work in old people's homes.

In Eschberg the main emphasis is on use of leisure time, aid with homework, work on school committees and in old people's homes. These women — once in need of help themselves — have organised a visiting scheme for old people and found a new field of activity in old people's homes.

Now that women are no longer so

dependent on their families, they are able to take on some educational problems less emotionally laden. They no longer concentrate so strongly on their own that they can do everything better.

In fact these projects helped many of the women to discover their own strengths.

Housewives previously dependent on their husbands and families are now able to build up a domain of their own to wean themselves from the family to take on social responsibilities.

Suddenly these women have started insisting on their rights and are no longer automatically available for their husbands and children.

Clearly, this has affected their relations with their own families. They do not worry so much, to the extent that they are more confident.

The snag behind the whole operation is that it might tempt local politicians to leave certain social work to these women volunteers. Why do women always have to be the kind and another "until we get with the theory of relativity."

Gero Gumbel

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 27 June 1981)

Congress gets to grips with career-family conflict

The problem of how to combine careers with raising families was the major topic at the 8th International Women's Congress in Krefeld.

The congress was organised by the German Housewives Association.

More than 700 delegates from 13 countries attended, including the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Brazil, Israel and the United States.

Interest was focussed on a study of how women cope with careers and bringing up families. This is being done by Prof. Dr. Hettinger of Mülheim on the Ruhr. It is not yet complete, will clearly influence legislation on this subject.

Anneliese Schminke, President of the Housewives Association, was speaking from personal experience when she said that "our daughters want to have the chance to pursue their careers and to raise children."

The working world is still not adequately geared to cope with this requirement. The number of men prepared to do their share of the work at home is still too low.

Men who work at home, even if it is only for half a day, are still the exception. And no one really believes that they are the most emancipated and balanced of men.

One of the aims of the conference was to increase general awareness of the need for more flexible working hours. The following points, which apply in some foreign countries, were discussed:

- A six-hour working day for parents with children under the age of eight — with a corresponding reduction in income (as happens in Sweden);

- Time off or days off in a normal full working week with loss of income

for time missed. This scheme is being tried in France.

- A reduction of working time for women can be applied for at certain times of the year. Loss of income ranging from 20 to 25 per cent.

- Job-sharing, in which two people share the same job (USA, and on a small scale, in West Germany).

- Annual working time contracts in which the number of hours to work in the entire year is fixed.

- Sabbaticals — i.e. time off on pay — as in Australia and the United States.

The leadership and the rank and file of the 383 districts of the Housewives Association realise that their strength in a lobby is limited. They see their role in getting to bed early at Clermont-Ferrand. "It's a throwback to my old days," she explained.

One tactic in this strategy will be to popularise the concept of family time. Frau Schminke: "When men are at home, fathers and mothers realise that a part of life we will have to live. It's a step forward."

Ria Theuer

(Rheinische Post, 3 July 1981)

Fun and food come first for Cornelia Hanisch, world foil titleholder

After beating China's Jiu Jie in the final of the world foil event at the world fencing championships in Clermont-Ferrand, Cornelia Hanisch from Offenbach was in a pensive mood.

"I had self-confidence," she said. "She really took me by surprise. A tough customer, very tough as a fencer, that is."

Hanisch, 29, a games mistress and history teacher, won clearly always tried to stick to my defensive stance.

She responded aggressively. She was able to do so because she knew the opponent's style of play, she said. The 23-year-old Nanking fencer had lost October.

When the referee interrupted the match, she recalled, she felt sure she would be meeting her opponent again.

She remembered of their previous encounter certainly paid dividends in Clermont-Ferrand.

Hanisch won the world crown in Melbourne, Australia, she recalls behaving strangely for the first time.

She picked a big scrubbing brush in the gym. When I got there I had intended to take on social responsibilities.

Suddenly these women have started insisting on their rights and are no longer automatically available for their husbands and children.

Clearly, this has affected their relations with their own families. They do not worry so much, to the extent that they are more confident.

The snag behind the whole operation is that it might tempt local politicians to leave certain social work to these women volunteers. Why do women always have to be the kind and another "until we get with the theory of relativity."

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Ria Theuer

(Rheinische Post, 3 July 1981)

She did not train this time as hard as she did before the Montreal Olympics. She used to have to practise each and every tactical move until it was perfect; nowadays it all came automatically.

"I have developed behaviour patterns that I can resort to whenever I need to do so," she says.

This certainly proved the case in her final against a Chinese girl with whom the others were totally unable to come to terms.

Not that this implied criticism of the competition. Fencing, she said, was so complicated, so extremely fast that at times fencers themselves were not altogether clear what went on:

"At times we ourselves are not sure what move the other girl has just made."

Mental alertness alone was not enough. A fencer had to have an instinct for action and reaction; instinct and tactics, as in her title defence.

Fencing, food and conversation were all very well, but how had she felt about the boycott of the Moscow Olympics? Miss Hanisch was well known to have been very much against the boycott at the time.

"When I heard that Pascale Trinquet of France had won the Olympic gold medal I really had to let off steam. Beforehand she had only two attributes, poor fencing style and a haughty attitude."

She is still upset. "The world championship title is great, but it's no substitute for an Olympic medal."

Klaus Blume
(Die Welt, 7 July 1981)

High-jumper Nagel below best at European meeting



Three of a kind...from left Mögenburg, Nagel and Thrinhardt.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Gerd Nagel, 24, came third in the high jump at the European Cup intermediate event in Warsaw.

His best leap of 2.22m was 2cm short of the winning jump (2.24m) by Poland's Trzepizur.

And it was nowhere near his 2.31m at Eberstadt earlier this year, the world's best so far this season.

As Nagel competed in Poland, former world record holder Dietmar Mögenburg was jumping 2.26m in an international meeting between West Germany B and France B in Böblingen.

Nagel was preferred both to Mögenburg and Carlo Thrinhardt for the Warsaw event.

Mögenburg and Thrinhardt are coached by national chief coach Dragan Tancic, 44. Nagel is coached by Frankfurt sports instructor Günter Elsinger.

Mögenburg consoles himself (and probably only himself) over his omission from the Warsaw event with the idea that he will be back in peak form in time for the late-August European Cup finals in Zagreb and for the early-September World Cup finals in Rome.

Falling action it just has to be words, mainly of the high-flying variety. It has to be business as usual, and Dutch jumper Ruud Wielart explains why. Wielart's name counts for something with organisers of international meetings, but if he continues to jump as badly as at present the money will go from bad to worse. That, he says, is why he just has to have an operation on his bad knee —

to make sure of earning good money at the major international athletics meetings in August.

High-jumping is all he has ever learnt in life, his Haarlem, Holland, apartment costs 900 guilders a month and driving a sports car is expensive too.

These are the problems Mögenburg and Thrinhardt also face. Last year, an Olympic year, Mögenburg left school to make the high jump his livelihood for a while.

He tried school again in Bad Soden-Allendorf, but without success. "Dietmar preferred to jump," says coach Elsinger.

As a school-leaver without a further job qualification he may not have wanted particularly to jump for a living but he has no choice if he is to maintain his present standard of living.

Like his coach, Dragan Tancic (who is on record as saying: "I can see myself ending my days travelling on business by second-class rail"), he drives a Porsche sports car.

Carlo Thrinhardt drives a Porsche too, but plans to lower his sights a little. "A Volkswagen Rabbit will do just as well."



Cornelia Hanisch ... no ascetic existence.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Thrinhardt is well advised to think small. He really isn't doing too well at the moment. He would like to work as a journalist but failed his maths test in a bid to pass his higher school certificate as a mature student.

Nothing seems to be going right for him these days. Small wonder Dietmar Mögenburg says he is going through a sticky patch.

Mögenburg talks big to compensate for his own poor showing at present. In London a report said the 2.15m he cleared at a meeting there was no height for a jumper who had once cleared 2.35m.

His answer, as a 19-year-old, was: "There have been plenty of ups in my life."

Maybe there were too many. Over 18 months he cleared heights of 2.30m and more on seven occasions.

But his bad foot, the result of a fatigue fracture that went unnoticed years ago, took severe punishment.

If that were all there was to it he might well be back on top before long, but there are other problems too.

The people are always the same, so are their pointless comments, he says. There are times when he is sick and tired of the high jump.

Occasionally he and Thrinhardt go out for a meal together with their girlfriends on the eve of a meeting, but they invariably request the organiser to book them in separate hotels.

They will be seeing each other the next day anyway and you can have too much of a good thing!

Nothing but high-jumping gets on your nerves after a while, says Nagel's coach, Elsinger. That is why Gerd is studying law, "and really studying," he adds.

His studies come first, not his jumping, says Nagel, who drives a Volkswagen. Despite the twofold strain his jumping technique is so superb that even Chinese coaches have ordered training films in which he has gone through his paces.

All he himself has to say on the entire subject is: "You can have no idea how sick and tired I have grown of the Mögenburg myth."

Klaus Blume
(Die Welt, 30 June 1981)